

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052373

FOLLOWING REPEAT CARACAS 2438 ACTION SECSTATE 2 MAR

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 2438

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GY CU VE

SUBJ: VENEZUELAN CONCERN OVER CUBAN PRESENCE IN GUYANA

REF: A. GEORGETOWN 394, B. CARACAS 2265, C. LUERS/ASENCIO
TELCON (3/2/76)

CAUTION: PROPRIETARY INFORMATION INVOLVED

1. DCM WAS CALLED IN TO FOREIGN MINISTRY BY VICE MINISTER
GOMEZ MANTELLINI TO DISCUSS SUBJECT. PRESENT WITH VICE
MINISTER WAS CHIEF OF BOUNDARIES DIVISION, AMBASSADOR ROJAS
CABOT.

2. GOMEZ MANTELLINI STATED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE GUYANESE FOREIGN MINISTER
IN WHICH ALL ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING THE PRESENCE OF CUBANS
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IN GUYANA WERE DENIED. THERE WAS A SPECIFIC

DENIAL THAT THE GUYANESE WERE PROVIDING STOPOVER AND REFUELING FACILITIES FOR CUBAN PLANES EN ROUTE TO ANGOLA. THE VICE MINISTER SAID THAT THEY KNEW THAT ONE WAS A LIE AND THEY WERE ALSO SUSPICIOUS OF THE OTHER DISCLAIMERS. HE ASKED HOWEVER THAT WE RESPECT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE EXCHANGE WITH THE GUYANESE. THE GOV, HE SAID, WAS UPSET AND HIGHLY CONCERNED ABOUT REPORTS ON THE PRESENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN GUYANA AND HE ALSO MADE REFERENCE TO THE RESUMEN STORY (CARACAS 2218).

3. THE DCM DREW ON THE CONTENTS OF REFTEL A WHEREUPON THE VICE MINISTER PRODUCED A REPORT FROM HIS OWN AMBASSADOR IN GUYANA WHICH WAS REMARKABLY SIMILAR IN CONTENT AND TONE. THE PRINCIPAL DIFFERENCE WAS ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON THE PRESENCE OF POLES, EAST GERMANS AND RUSSIANS. THE NUMBER OF CUBANS WAS PLACED AT PRECISELY 129.

4. THE VICE MINISTER SAID THAT HE WAS PARTIALLY REASSURED BY OUR REPORT AND BELIEVED THAT THE GOV'S ATTITUDE WOULD DE-ESCALATE FROM ITS PRESENT DEEP CONCERN TO ONE OF PERHAPS DISCOMFORT BUT NOT ALARM. THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO WATCH THE SITUATION CAREFULLY, HE ADDED, AND WOULD APPRECIATE OUR PASSING TO THE GOV ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WE MAY ACQUIRE. HE SAID THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIVISION OF BOUNDARIES WAS SENDING SOME OFFICERS TO THE BORDER AREA ON ROUTINE MISSIONS WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO BE ALERT FOR ANY INFORMATION ON THE PRESENCE OF CUBANS. CAUTION: PROPRIETARY INFORMATION INVOLVED.
SHLAUDEMANN
UNQTE. KISSINGER

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